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Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" But has he received reports and has he considered whether these reports justify the extension of this system of licensing boards ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" We have received reports but we do not think sufficient time has elapsed for a reconsideration of the matter."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know what the gist of the reports has been, whether the system has been a success or not ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Manufacture of country liquor.

*366 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the various firms which manufacture country liquor by contract with Government for supply to depots in the Presidency ;

(*b*) the basis of materials from which the liquors are made ;

(*c*) where the distilleries are ;

(*d*) the places to which the distilleries supply liquor and what kind of liquor is supplied ;

(*e*) what are the prices charged by the distillers for the several kinds of liquor ;

(*f*) which distillery supplies country liquor to South Kanara ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that only liquor made from molasses or the refuse in a sugar manufactory is supplied for sale as country liquor in South Kanara ;

(*h*) whether it has been found possible to supply liquor from sugarcane or palmyra or coconut jaggery in large quantities from Indian distilleries in the Coimbatore district ;

(*i*) whether there has been a fall in consumption of the country liquor and fall in rentals in South Kanara and whether this is due to inferior quality and unpopularity of the liquor supplied ;

(*j*) whether there has also been an increase in the illicit distillation of liquor in the district during the last five years with figures ; and

(*k*) whether Government have before them proposals to license local distillation from various materials, and what steps Government propose to take regarding the matter ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*g*) A statement[a] is appended.

(*h*) The Government have no information on the point.

(*i*) Figures showing the consumption of country liquor and the rentals realized in the South Kanara district during the five years ending 1927–28 are given below :—

Year.			Consumption in imperial proof gallons.	Rentals.
				RS.
1923–24	...	...	62,804	1,34,815
1924–25	...	...	60,440	1,24,169
1925–26	...	...	52,507	1,03,649
1926–27	...	...	49,995	1,03,947
1927–28	...	...	51,848	99,310

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 679-680 infra.

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The Government have no reason to think that the variation in the figures of consumption and rentals was due to the inferior quality and unpopularity of the liquor supplied.

(*j*) The number of cases of illicit distillation and of possession and sale of illicitly distilled spirit detected in the South Kanara district during the four years ending 1927-28 (for which period figures are available) is as follows :—

1924-25	120
1925-26	172
1926-27	168
1927-28	250

No separate figures are available for cases of illicit distillation.

(*k*) The Government have no such proposals under consideration, nor do they propose to take any action in the direction suggested.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister, with reference to the answer to clause (*h*), whether Government have any information that liquor should be supplied from distilleries like Nellikuppam ? " 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" If the hon. Member will convince Government that it should be otherwise, they will consider the suggestion."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know from the hon. Minister whether the system of calling for open tenders for the manufacture of country liquor is still in existence ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" So far as I am aware, there is no change during the last year and a half."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" My question has not been answered. What I want to know is whether the system of calling for open tenders is in force."

The hon. the President :—" This is not the occasion to criticise the nature of the reply. There are other avenues open to the hon Member to criticise the nature of the reply given."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I ask the hon. Minister whether the people who manufacture country liquor have been given these privileges by calling for tenders in the open market ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I do not believe that tenders are called for every year. Probably these people were given licences at the time the distilleries were started and unless there is any substantial reason for cancelling those licences, I do not think we can cancel them."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I ask the hon. Minister, why it is that there is great disparity with regard to the number of districts allotted to the various companies ? For instance, the companies noted in the statement, namely, items 1 to 6, are given three districts each, whereas Messrs. Parry & Co. are given ten districts to sell arrack ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" If any detailed information is wanted, I require notice. I can now only say that when these distilleries were started, the capacity of the distilleries and the financial resources of these companies would have been taken into consideration."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know whether the question of calling for tenders in this case is under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I never said that it was under the consideration of Government."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" Will the Government consider the question ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" There is no reason to consider."

Medical

Appointment of an All-India Inspector of Medical Education.

* 367 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has agreed to the appointment of an All-India Inspector of Medical Education on behalf of the British General Medical Council ;

(b) if so, the reasons why he has agreed to that appointment ; and

(c) whether the Government of Madras have committed themselves to bear any portion of the cost of such office, and if so, what portion and the reasons why ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have agreed to the temporary appointment of a whole-time Commissioner of medical qualifications and standards for India and to meet one-seventh of the expenditure involved in the creation of the appointment. The necessity for the appointment is explained in the appended note a copy of which was placed on the table [a] in connexion with the supplementary grant voted by the Council at the meeting held on the 8th October 1928.

Removal of the sheep shed near Neiveli village.

* 368 Q.—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the residents of Neiveli village in Tiruvallur taluk have petitioned the Collector, the Director of Public Health and the Surgeon-General to remove the sheep-shed near the village to a place more distant from the village ;

(b) whether any enquiry was made on the petition by the Public Health Department ; and

(c) whether the Government will pass favourable orders on the petition of the villagers ?

A.—Government have no information.

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 680–681 infra.